

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

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1. (currently amended) An isolated and purified human occuldin polypeptide having at least about 60% sequence homology with residues 33 to 522 of SEQ. ID. NO: 2, the polypeptide being active in inhibiting epithelial or endothelial barriers.

2. (currently amended) An isolated and purified human occuldin ~~A~~ polypeptide having ~~according to claim 1 which has~~ at least about 80% sequence homology with residues 33 to 522 of SEQ. ID. NO: 2, the polypeptide being active in inhibiting epithelial or endothelial barriers.

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3. (currently amended) An isolated and purified human occuldin ~~A~~ polypeptide having ~~according to claim 1 which has~~ at least about 90% sequence homology with residues 33 to 522 of SEQ. ID. NO: 2, the polypeptide being active in inhibiting epithelial or endothelial barriers.

4. - 20. (cancelled)

21. (new) A polypeptide according to claim 1 comprising residues 89 to 138 of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

22. (new) A polypeptide according to claim 1 comprising residues 196 to 246 of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

23. (new) A polypeptide according to claim 2 comprising residues 89 to 138 of SEQ. ID.

NO: 2.

24. (new) A polypeptide according to claim 2 comprising residues 196 to 246 of SEQ. ID.

NO: 2.

25. (new) A polypeptide according to claim 3 comprising residues 89 to 138 of SEQ. ID.

NO: 2.

26. (new) A polypeptide according to claim 3 comprising residues 196 to 246 of SEQ. ID.

NO: 2.